

Sustainable Marquette ERG

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SUSTAINABILITY TRACKING, ASSESSMENT AND RATING SYSTEM REPORT: MU SCORES BRONZE RATING

Marquette University has earned a STARS Bronze rating in recognition of its sustainability achievements from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). STARS measures and encourages sustainability in all aspects of higher education. With more than 900 participants in 40 countries, AASHE's STARS program is the most widely recognized framework in the world for publicly reporting comprehensive information related to a college or university's performance. Participant's report in five overall areas: academics, operations, engagement, and administration & planning.



This effort was led by Chelsea Malacara, Sustainability & Energy Management Coordinator, but could not have been completed without the assistance from many individuals across campus. You can review the full report [here](#).

EARTH MONTH AT MARQUETTE

The Sustainable Marquette ERG and other campus and community partners are offering several ways to mark Earth month this April.

Lunch & Learn Series (Sustainable Marquette ERG)

These lunchtime tours, running 12:00-1:00 PM, will give you a behind-the-scenes look at sustainability-related research under way at Marquette. [Learn more and register](#).

- **APRIL 14: Watching Plants Breathe: How We Measure Plant Photosynthesis in Response to Drought** | Come for a tour of the Lemoine Lab and learn about the lab's work relating to ecosystems. Host: Dr. Nathan Lemoine, Assistant Professor, Trophic Ecology/Quantitative Ecology, Biological Sciences
- **APRIL 20, 27: Introduction to Honey Bee Research at Marquette** | Tour the bee lab and the honey bee colonies used to perform research at Marquette. Host: Dr. Chelsea Cook, Assistant Professor, Social Behavior, Neurobiology, Behavioral Genetics, Biological Sciences

Common Read: Braiding Sweetgrass (Sustainable Marquette ERG)

Take part in a campus-wide reading of Robin Wall Kimmerer's best-selling book, Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants and, on April 26 and 28, join us for lively brown-bag discussions. [Learn more about the common read and register for book discussion circles](#).

APRIL 19: Mission Conversations: Exploring Integral Ecology

Explore integral ecology and reflect on ways that we can each commit to care for our common home with a panel discussion featuring Dr. Jame Schaefer, Professor of Theology; Dr. Sam Majhor, Assistant Professor of English; and Ms. Chelsea Malacara, Sustainability and Energy Management Coordinator. [Learn more and register](#).

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT: CHELSEA COOK



DR. CHELSEA COOK

Assistant Professor, Social Behavior, Neurobiology, Behavioral Genetics, Biological Sciences

How are you advancing sustainability at Marquette?

My goal is to advance sustainability by increasing knowledge and awareness of the ecosystems we belong to. The classes I teach urge students to design experiments and use primary literature to think critically about the patterns they see in the world. My research focuses on behavior and physiology of honey bees in the context of ecological changes. The undergraduate and graduate students in my lab use a comprehensive and holistic approach

to understand how environmental challenges impact honey bees' complex societies. The data we collect will allow us to create solutions for these important creatures and the ecosystems they support.

What is your vision for sustainability at Marquette?

My vision for sustainability at Marquette is one that recognizes all creatures—from bacteria to the humans on campus—as playing a critical role in our ecosystem. Humans have the ability to understand our impact. Because of this, we have a duty to become stewards to care for all organisms. To do so we need to study them and how our impact changes them. I aim to train our students to think critically about the patterns we see and how they can create real solutions. I am hopeful our campus can be a haven for all creatures and our students can learn from them.

What excites you right now about sustainability?

I am excited about the tools that are being developed to understand how we can be sustainable. A vast amount of data is being collected, analyzed, and applied in innovative ways to solve complex problems. These methods can create actionable methods and solutions to our most pressing problems. I see Marquette as being a leader in innovative, holistic, and compassionate approaches to sustainability.

ERG CO-CHAIRS



CHELSEA MALACARA

Sustainability & Energy Management Coordinator



ELISA COGLAN

Coordinator of Marketing and Outreach, Raynor Memorial Libraries

BEYOND MARQUETTE

Podcasts to Live by

- Dandelions Aren't Weeds
- 1619
- Hot Take

Books to Read

- "A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and Its Assault on the American Mind" by Harriet A. Washington
- "Half Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life" by Edward O. Wilson

Ways to Connect & Collaborate

Create a free account with the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Ed (AASHE) to connect with people and projects going on across U.S. campuses. aashe.org

Events Around Town

- Apr. 23: Milwaukee Riverkeeper Spring Cleanup
- April: Urban Ecology Center Earth Month Programming



HAVE IDEAS OR WANT TO JOIN A SUBCOMMITTEE?

Contact chelsea.malacara@gmail.com